

**Education Cabinet
Office for the Blind**

	Revised FY 2006	Requested FY 2007	Requested FY 2008	Recommended FY 2007	Recommended FY 2008
SOURCE OF FUNDS					
General Fund					
Regular Appropriation	1,306,300	1,338,400	1,338,400	1,335,300	1,343,200
Salary Compensation Fund	32,100				
Base Deduction	-30,700				
Total General Fund	1,307,700	1,338,400	1,338,400	1,335,300	1,343,200
Restricted Funds					
Balance Forward	707,000	886,300	630,800	885,200	673,300
Current Receipts	2,150,200	1,721,600	1,571,600	1,743,400	1,593,400
Total Restricted Funds	2,857,200	2,607,900	2,202,400	2,628,600	2,266,700
Federal Funds					
Balance Forward	45,200				393,400
Current Receipts	9,093,200	9,742,800	10,122,700	9,742,800	10,122,700
Total Federal Funds	9,138,400	9,742,800	10,122,700	9,742,800	10,516,100
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS	13,303,300	13,689,100	13,663,500	13,706,700	14,126,000
EXPENDITURES BY CLASS					
Personnel Cost	5,781,100	7,080,300	7,460,300	6,662,000	6,797,800
Operating Expenses	1,320,800	1,320,800	1,320,800	1,320,800	1,320,800
Grants, Loans or Benefits	5,316,200	4,657,200	4,657,100	4,657,200	4,657,100
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	12,418,100	13,058,300	13,438,200	12,640,000	12,775,700
EXPENDITURES BY FUND SOURCE					
General Fund	1,307,700	1,338,400	1,338,400	1,335,300	1,343,200
Restricted Funds	1,972,000	1,977,100	1,977,100	1,955,300	1,955,300
Federal Funds	9,138,400	9,742,800	10,122,700	9,349,400	9,477,200
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	12,418,100	13,058,300	13,438,200	12,640,000	12,775,700
EXPENDITURES BY UNIT					
General Blind Services	10,189,500	10,705,000	11,006,800	10,432,700	10,546,600
Business Enterprise Program	1,048,900	1,126,500	1,163,600	1,065,300	1,076,300
Center for Independent Living	739,500	794,500	826,500	723,900	732,400
Assistive Technology Service	440,200	432,300	441,300	418,100	420,400
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	12,418,100	13,058,300	13,438,200	12,640,000	12,775,700

Pursuant to KRS 163.470, the Office for the Blind provides services to assist individuals with severe visual disabilities in preparing for and obtaining employment. The Office provides services to approximately 1,500 individuals with severe visual impairments so that they can receive the education and specialized training services needed to become independent and self-sufficient in the workplace.

Since its creation 20 years ago, the Office has provided for the vocational rehabilitation of blind and visually impaired Kentuckians. Office staff perform vocational counseling, evaluation, physical and mental restoration, vocational and higher education training, assistive technology training, adaptive devices, orientation and mobility training, and job placement services. The Office accomplishes this mission through the following avenues:

- The Office has 11 field offices that provide direct vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with severe visual impairments.

- The Charles McDowell Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center for the Blind is a facility in Louisville that provides training in vocational preparation, personal adjustment services, independent living skills, orientation and mobility skills, Braille, assistive technology, career assessment, vocational planning, work adjustment, and work experience.
- In Lexington and Paducah, the Office operates two volunteer recording units that provide audio-recorded materials statewide for blind and visually impaired individuals.
- The Business Enterprise Program trains blind individuals for self-employment at vending facilities located statewide.
- The Independent Living Program provides training to blind and visually impaired individuals in areas that will enable them to live and function independently.

Pursuant to KRS 163.470(11) and the federal Randolph-Sheppard Act, the Division of Business Enterprises Program (BEP) establishes vending facilities on state, federal, and other property to provide remunerative employment for licensed visually impaired merchants. This program provides management services and training to visually impaired individuals, identifies and develops new sites suitable for vending facilities, and repairs and replaces equipment in existing vending facilities.

The Office for the Blind receives a commission based upon the percentage of gross sales from vending operations located in all interstate highway rest areas. The visually impaired merchants contribute five percent of their net income to the Office. The funds received from the interstate vending contract are utilized exclusively in the Business Enterprise Program.

Pursuant to KRS 163.470 and Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, independent living specialists provide short-term, individualized instruction for individuals who are blind so they may be able to function independently. Services include information, counseling, and skills training in activities of daily living. Mobility training, assistive devices, referrals to community resources in housing and transportation, and information on services offered by other agencies are provided. The service population consists mainly of individuals who are elderly or unable to work due to the severity of disabilities. The population of the Independent Living program makes up two-thirds of the blind population in the state.

The Office employs independent living specialists who are located throughout the state. The average caseload for an independent living specialist is currently 150 new cases annually. These specialists make home visits and provide specially-adapted aids and appliances such as Braille and talking watches, controls on stoves, writing guides, phone dials, and canes. They provide limited instruction in household tasks such as cooking, keeping time, and learning in the home. The specialists also work with families to educate them about blindness and how to promote independent living.

The Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network is a federally funded project operating within the Office for the Blind. KATS is a statewide collaborative system of consumer-oriented organizations that help to provide assistive technologies.